

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

March 9, 2021

SUBJECT:

Consideration of ESSER II Funding Uses – HEPA Filters

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) resulted from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) that was signed into law on December 27, 2020. The SC Department of Education is receiving \$940.4 million in ESSER II funds. From that, our District is projected to receive \$28.2 million. Funds must be spent by September 30, 2023.

Allowable uses include the 12 activities allowed under ESSER phase I, plus three new ones. The Board previously approved the use of ESSER II funds for the extension of FFCRA-like benefits through June 30, 2021, and increased hourly summer pay for teachers and lead teachers.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Two of the new allowable uses of ESSER II funds deal directly with facilities. Funds can be used for school facility repairs and improvements that help reduce the risk of virus transmission and/or can be used for projects that improve indoor air quality. The Administration recommends utilizing a portion of the ESSER II funds to install HEPA filtration systems in 1,600 classrooms at an estimated cost of \$375,000. The Administration further recommends the purchase of an ample supply of replacement filters at an estimated cost of \$30 per filter. Filters typically last two months with normal use. The Administration is requesting \$750,000 for the systems and replacement filters.

The Administration will propose a comprehensive ESSER II spending plan for Board consideration at the March 23, 2021, meeting. The comprehensive plan is expected to include after school and Saturday school programs, the summer program, early intervention, FFCRA-like benefits, PPE, and facilities and technology.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve \$750,000 to install HEPA filtration systems and for inventorying replacement HEPA filters.

PREPARED BY:

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